

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-10 SPC-03 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

PC-04 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 191326Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3378

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, SF

SUBJ: CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS: THE AFTERMATH

1. AT CARLETONVILLE'S WESTERN DEEP LEVELS MINE, ALL REMAINS  
QUEIT AND NORMAL WORK ACTIVITY HAS RESUMED. SIGNIFICANCE OF  
CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS LIES AS MUCH IN WHAT DID NOT OCCUR IN  
ITS AFTERMATH AS IN WHAT DID. CARLETONVILLE WAS NOT, AS SOME  
FEARED IT COULD BE, ANOTHER SHARPEVILLE IN TERMS OF EMOTIONAL  
RESPONSE TO IT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ABROAD. IT DOES  
NOT APPEAR TO BE A BENCHMARK, FROM EITHER POSITIVE OR

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NEGATIVE STANDPOINT, IN HISTORY OF RACE RELATIONS IN THIS

COUNTRY.

2. SAG MAINTAINS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN, THAT POLICE FIRED ONLY AFTER EXTREME PROVOCATION AND IN SELF-DEFENSE, AND THAT THEY ACTED TO PROTECT NON-RIOTING BLACKS AS WELL AS THEMSELVES FROM MOB WHICH WAS OUT OF CONTROL. MOST WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS ACCEPT THIS ASSERTION.

3. CRITICISM BY LIBERAL WHITES HAS TWO FOCI. INITIALLY, ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS AND INDIVIDUAL CRITICS OF SAG CONCENTRATED ON QUESTION WHETHER IT REALLY HAD BEEN NECESSARY FOR POLICE TO OPEN FIRE. IT WAS ASKED WHETHER SA POLICE WERE ADEQUATELY TRAINED IN RIOT CONTROL METHODS.

4. BUT AT SAME TIME, SOME SAG CRITICS WERE POINTING TO ISSUES OF LOW WAGES AND INADEQUATE WORKER-MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS WHICH THEY MAINTAINED WERE ROOT CAUSES OF CARLETONVILLE. THIS KIND OF CHARGE NOW FORMS BRUNT OF CRITICISM OF SAG AND OF WHITE EMPLOYERS OF BLACK LABOR.

5. INADEQUACY OF MACHINERY FOR LABOR ARBITRATION AND NEGOTIATION HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED. ANGLO-AMERICAN CHAIRMAN HARRY OPPENHEIMER HAS ADMITTED MINE MANAGEMENT FAILED TO COMMUNICATE WITH BLACK MINERS. LABOR LEADERS LIKE ARTHUR GROBBELAAR AND LUCY MVUBELO HAVE, IN EFFECT, CITED CARLETONVILLE AS CLEAR EXAMPLE OF NEED FOR OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BLACK TRADE UNIONS.

6. COMMENT: PLEAS FOR BLACK TRADE UNIONS LIKELY TO FALL ON DEAF EARS. VORSTER GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNEQUIVOCAL IN ITS PAST OPPOSITION TO SUCH UNIONS, WHICH IT REGARDS AS POTENTIAL INSTRUMENT OF POLITICAL SUBVERSION AND AS DANGER TO STABILITY, AND WHITE CONTROL, OF SA ECONOMY. EVEN HAD CARLETONVILLE AROUSED HIGH-PITCHED EMOTIONAL REACTION AMONG SA BLACKS, IT VERY QUESTIONABLE THAT SAG, ESPECIALLY IN ITS PRESENT VERKRAMPTE MOOD, WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO MAKE FAR-REACHING CONCESSION OF APPROVING CONCEPT OF UNIONS FOR BLACK WORKERS. AS IT IS, CARLETONVILLE HAS NOT STIMULATED ANYTHING RESEMBLING A SUSTAINED AND IMPASSIONED RESPONSE AMONG BLACKS OR THEIR LEADERS. THUS THERE NO MASSIVE INTERNAL PRESSURE ON SAG TO CONSIDER, MUCH LESS IMPLEMENT, BASIC CHANGES IN RELATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN BLACK LABOR AND WHITE MANAGEMENT.

7. DESPITE THIS, CARLETONVILLE UNDERLINES VOLATILITY OF BLACK LABOR SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. IN TIME IT COULD BE ONE OF A SERIES OF SERIOUS STRIKES OR OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF LABOR UNREST WHICH WILL LEAD TO FURTHER RE-EXAMINATION OF WAGE STRUCTURE, WORKING CONDITIONS AND NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ARBITRATION. IN THIS SENSE,

CARLETONVILLE CONSTITUTES A WARNING TO WHITE LEADERSHIP.  
IRONICALLY, IT ALSO HAS POINTED OUT THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING  
THE GROWING FRUSTRATION AND BITTERNESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS,  
THEY HAVE NOT REACHED THE POINT -- AND PROBABLY ARE FAR FROM IT -  
OF CONFRONTING WHITE AUTHORITIES WITH WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE,  
GENERAL STRIKE OR MASSIVE BOYCOTT.  
SMITH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1973  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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